The Chronicle
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BONE-SHAKERS

Laurence A. Johnson

THE speed and enthusiasm with which the American public in the late 1860's took up the use of the self propelled velocipede was almost unparalleled up to that time. in less than three year after *Pierre Lallement* of Paris, France, assigned to himself and *James Carroll* of New Haven, Connecticut, his rights on patent number 59,915, issued November 20, 1866, figure one, this new gadget, called a *velocipede,* had received such publicity that the *bone-shaker,* as it was dubbed, became the butt of innumerable jokes and cartoons. Only the tin-lizzies of later days equaled it in this type of free publicity.

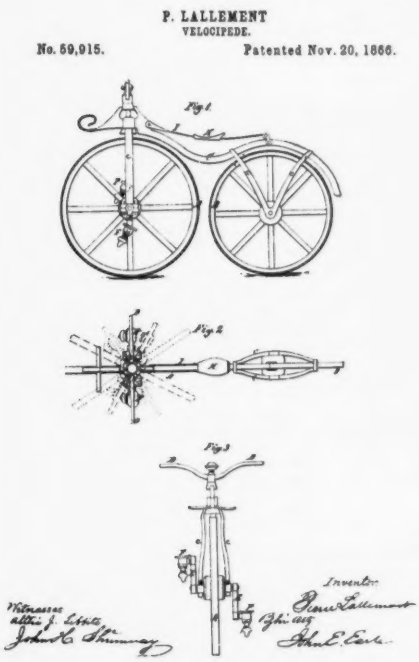

Fig. 1—P. Lallement patent, 1866.

A New York City weekly newspaper *The Days' Doings; Illustrating Current Events of Romance, Police Reports, Important Trials, and Sporting News* of May 1, 1869, devoted a quarter page each to two cartoons about the *Bone-shaker,* as the English had dubbed it. One entitled *VERY NATURAL* showed ladies promenading while men are passing by riding velocipedes, figure 2. The other, figure 3, foretells the end of horse racing. The horses watching and betting on the men-driven velocipedes. The leading illustration in this same issue, figure

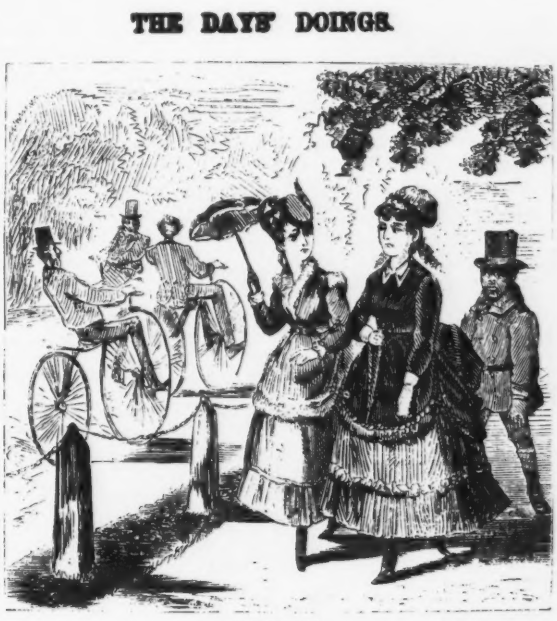

Fig. 2—Very Natural

4, filled one-half a page and was entitled *THE QUINTUPLE ACT AS PERFORMED AT THE EMPIRE RINK N. Y.* *see page 339.* The news concerning this on page 339 reads: "The velocipede is the reigning sensation of the locomotion of the day and night among us. Velocipede halls are being erected or opened throughout the Northern and Western States in general, and in the cities of New York and Brooklyn especially; and while on our principal avenues and parks the velocipede is no unusual feature, it forms the staple attraction of

many of our night assemblages. It is now not only an invention but an institution, not only an exercise but an amusement.

"In the last point of view it has been inaugurated at the Empire Skating Rink, or what was formerly that structure. Here a French troupe of velocipedists have been engaged, and their gracefully rapid evolutions are witnessed by crowds of the curious, especially of our young men.

"In the repertoire of this troupe is embraced a

Fig. 3—Jerome Park Spring Races.—The Horses occpation gone—The steeds become spectators and bet on the Velocipedes.

Quintuple Velocipede Act, or an act in which five persons, male and female, exercise and evolve upon one and the same velocipede. The spectable thus presented is at once pretty and peculiar, and finds decided favor with our *Jeunnese doree.*

"Our engraving affords a vivid idea of this quintuple act."

Mr. S. M. Oliver, in Bulletin 204, Smithsonian Institution, wrote: "The bicycle, perhaps the most widely known form of mechanical transportation in the world today, has been with us approximately a century and a half, and today is used for transportation, recreation, and business in nearly every part of the world. It is stated that a Frenchman, de Sivrac, constructed a crude form of

Fig. 4—The Quintuple Velocipede Act at the Empire Rink, N. Y.

bicycle in the latter part of the eighteenth century called a *celerifere.* It consisted of a rough wooden bar supported on two wheels and carrying a padded saddle. The front fork had no swiveling action, so that the vehicle could be

BICYCLES.
COLUMBIA.
In ordering please send height and weight of rider, length of leg inside measure to ball of foot with the shoes on. Also length of inside seam of trousers.
Height of Leg inside Measurement, to Sole of Foot. in.
Diameter of Front Wheel. in.
Diameter of Back Wheel. in.
Columbia Bicycle.
Weight. lbs.
30 42 16 $40 44
31 44 16 42 50 45
32 46 16 45 46
33 48 18 47 80 47
34 50 18 50 48
36 52 18 52 50 49
34 54 18 55 80
37 56 20 57 50 51
38 58 20 100 52
BITS.
FOR CARPENTERS' BRACES.
Each.
Centre bits, per doz
Centre bits, per doz
Pod or Gauge bits, all sizes
Gimlet Bits, Double Cut—
Box.
First quality, per doz
Second quality, per doz
Assorted, Nos. 1 to 6, first quality, per doz

Fig. 5—The American Grocer. King, Briggs & Co. advertisement.

steered. It was propelled by the rider striking his feet against the ground. . . . In Paris shortly after 1860, either Pierre Michaux or his emloyee Pierre Lallement fitted pedals to the front-wheels of a velocipede, creating what became known in America and England as the 'bone-shaker.' "

It is interesting to note that Pierre Lallement in his patent, figure 1, gave instructions on how to ride and steer the machine: "If the carriage is inclined to lean to the right, turn the wheel as denoted in red, which throws the carriage over to the left; or, if inclined to the left, turn the wheel as denoted in blue. Thus the carriage is maintained in an upright position, and driven with great velocity by means of the cranks in the forward wheel. The greater the velocity, the more easily the upright position is maintained. To turn the carriage to the right or left, turn the guiding wheel accordingly. By this construction of a velocipede, after a little practice the rider is enabled to drive the same at an incredible velocity, with the greatest of ease."

Although the period of the *bone-shaker* was short lived, it did, nevertheless, arouse the interest of American manufacturers and some began to make and export velocipedes, a consignment of which was shipped to Liverpool for the English market about 1866.

Mr. Oliver continues: "The high-wheeled bicycle, with the saddle well forward over the large front wheel, was first produced in England and was introduced to America by English firms exhibiting at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876. This type, which

became known as the *ordinary*, was the first practical bicycle. The rider was in a position to add his weight to a downward thrust on the pedals and compared to earlier bicycles of the bone-shaker type, it was a light weight, comfortable machine. It was immediately popular, and the interest in bicycling increased greatly with its introduction. At the close of the Exposition the unsold ordinaries were taken by the Baltimore firm of Timms and Lawford, and most of them were soon sold to the newly organized Cunningham Company of Boston, Mass., which in 1877, was the first bicycle importing firm in America.

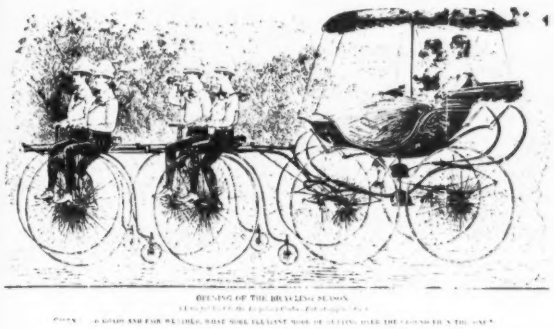

Fig. 6—Opening of the Bicycling Season. Given good roads and fair weather, what more pleasant mode of getting over the ground than this one?

In the same year Albert A. Pope also began importing English bicycles, and in 1878 his company, the Pope Manufacturing Company, of Boston, Mass., became the first manufacturer of bicycles in America. In that year Pope began building bicycles under the trade name 'Columbia' in the factory of the Weed Sewing Machine Company, at Hartford, Conn . . ."

It was in the general store that most of these *bone-shakers* were introduced to the public. The American Grocer was the first trade publication in America to reach the thousands of cross-roads general stores throughout the nation. The issue of February 19, 1880, figure 5, reveals the speed with which the *Bicycle Craze* was sweeping the country. This advertisement, in this 11 year old publication, advised the small storekeeper how he could serve his community without stocking these high-priced new *Ordinaries*. Instructions in the advertisement showed the storekeeper how to order the proper size for his prospective customer: "In ordering please send height and weight of rider, length of leg inside measure to ball of foot with shoes on. Also length of inside seam of trousers." The wholesale costs of these wheels were from $80.00 to $100.00 F.O.B. New York City.

No doubt the sale of these *Ordinaries* was helped by the many jokes and cartoons published concerning them as

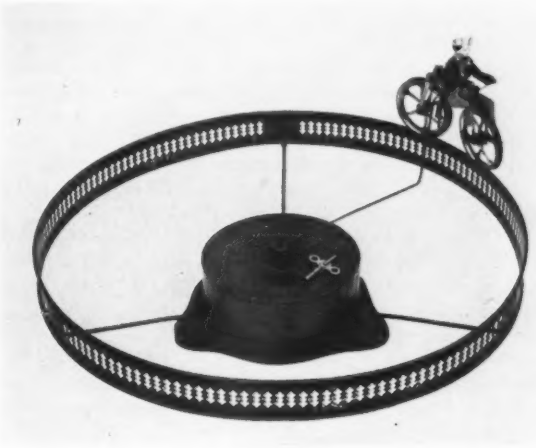

Fig. 8—J. E. Conklin patent toy, 1877.

shown in figure 6. This is from a clipping given to me by one of my customers. It was dated in pencil November 19, 1884. The source is unknown.

Toy velocipedes that were propelled by clock-works appeared in the 1870's. The author has two, shown in figures 7 and 8, in his Old General Cross-roads Store Museum. The one in figure 7, patented in 1870, is quite common. The one in figure 8, patent number 191,278, issued to John E. Conklin of Seneca Falls, Seneca County, New York, May 29, 1877, is much rarer and very unusual. The clock-work housing is finished in Chinese Red and the 19 inch diameter track is in deep blue. The brightly decorated little figure on the velocipede will run over five minutes with one winding. The first three minutes at the rate of forty revolutions per minute.

I have asked many people interested in old toys, if they knew anything about the little old toy velocipede. Only Mr. Louis H. Hertz of Scarsdale, New York, has volunteered any information. This well-known author and authority on toys told me that he believes that it was made and marketed by Althof, Bermann & Company, New York City. Let us hope that some reader can give additional information about this unusual toy, which is a part, if only a very small part, of the story of self-propelled transportation in America.

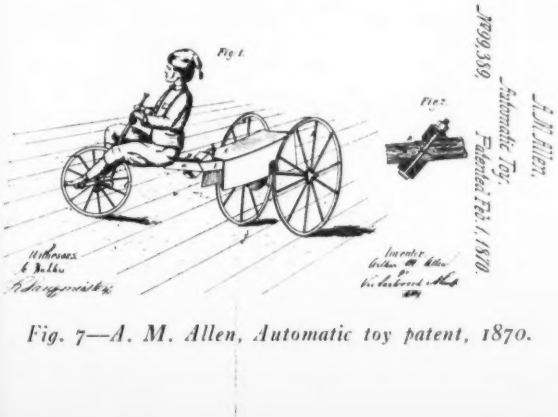

Fig. 7—A. M. Allen, Automatic toy patent, 1870.

CORRECTION

The article in the last issue, September, 1960, number 3, *Of Summer Beams and Sundry* was submitted by *Robert G. Hill* not Hall as printed. We caught the little imp in the press that causes such mistakes and he promised not to do it again!

The Chronicle

BY-GONE FISHING TECHNIQUES

PER GULDBECK
(Illustrations by Author)

PROBABLY the most popular masculine sport in America, and certainly one of the oldest of man's occupations, is fishing. While fresh-water fishing has long since been thought of in terms of sport rather than as a means of livelihood, commercial fishing is still carried on to a limited extent in Lake Otsego, New York. Until recent years the two most common methods in northern lakes were gill netting and seining, now legal only in the Great Lakes and on the Atlantic.

Seining for fish in Lake Otsego, for example, was popular as far back as the boyhood days of James Fenimore Cooper, at the opening of the Nineteenth Century, and is described in detail in his novel, *The Pioneers*. Seines were often of relatively fine mesh, and many sizes and types of fish were caught, not all desireable from a market point of view. Seining also requires a certain number of hands — men to row both ends of the seine close to shore where two or more men would haul it on the beach by direct pull, or by use of permanent windlasses set up in the seine area.

A simpler and more selective way was gill netting. A net was set in the bottom of the lake across the main stream of fish travel. A certain pre-determined mesh or gauge of net was used, usually 1¾", insuring that the small fry would go through the net. The larger fish would attempt to get through, but finding their way barred, would back off. As the fish attempted to backwater, his gills would open up automatically, causing him to become stuck in the meshes of the gill net. The fisherman at his leisure could go out, haul up one end of his net, pick out the fish along the length of it, and let the rest of the net sink back into place. In this way one or two men could insure themselves a reasonable haul of fish with a minimum amount of effort, except for maintenance of the nets, or occasional worries of pirating of their gill nets. Local fishermen say, however, that a man would only try that once . . .

When seining and gill-netting became illegal, it was then a risky business to continue using nets or to even be caught in possession of same. One rather non-selective method of catching fish in quantity was the use of trot-lines, a series of baited hooks on a line, which was fastened to the bank, the other end weighted and thrown out 50 or 100 feet. Early next morning the line would be hauled in, and everything from bullheads to baby "punkin seeds" might be on the line. This might feed a family, but would not be saleable to the local market.

Finally a method was evolved for catching the local delicacy, Otsego Bass, based partly on the prehistoric system of jigging for fish. Two permanent buoys, about 50 feet apart, were set in 50 to 60 feet of water, and the fishing boat was belayed between them at exactly the same interval each time. To this exact spot the fisherman would daily go out and chum or bait the area with oatmeal, cornmeal, macaroni, barley, or rice, whether he intended to fish that day or not. The fish learned to congregate there and gradually cleared themselves a spot on the bottom. The fisherman would then go out and moor to the buoys, throw out some more bait, and let his snatch hooks down to the bottom, figure 1.

With a set of snatch hooks in each hand the fishermen would rythmically sweep the hooks up and down near the bottom, eventually catching a fish in the side with one of the sharp springy hooks. It was quickly brought up from the bottom, killed, and gutted. In a few hours

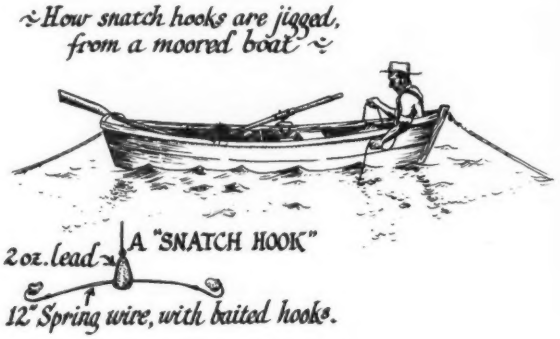

Fig. 1—Snatch Hook

the fisherman could usually bring home his limit, which would be sold to a local market or hotel kitchen.

Another efficient home-made rig was the "4-way biter," which is still occasionally used. The weighted snelled hooks were unreeled until they just touched the bottom. The other end of the line was fastened to a light springy corset stay, which would be slightly bowed from the weight of the ground tackle. As the bass swallowed the baited hook, and rose up and away with it, the corset stay would accordingly bob up, and the fisherman quickly hauled in on the line, in order to set the hook firmly and bring in the fish, figure 2.

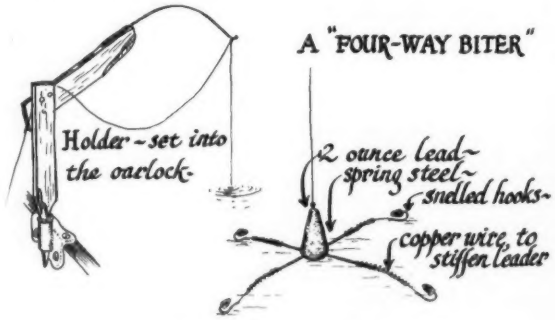

Fig. 2—Four-way biter

Although many people feel that fish stop biting after Labor Day, or the first frost, many fishermen from Hudson's Bay, south to York State are preparing their portable shanties and getting ready for ice fishing. Fishing through the ice can at times be slow and cold but one old-time method usually produced fish in a hurry. Near to his fishing hole the fisherman would chop another small hole and jam a small hemlock or pine shrub into it, so that only the stump stuck above the ice. Into this hole

he would pour a quart or two of shiners. Naturally, as soon as they were in the water, the shiners would disperse. As they swam about, however, the shiners would soon attract the attention of a bass or other large fish. As they streaked back to the safety of the shrub, the fisherman would realize that a large fish was approaching, and would be prepared with a snatch hook or a regular baited hook, figure 3.

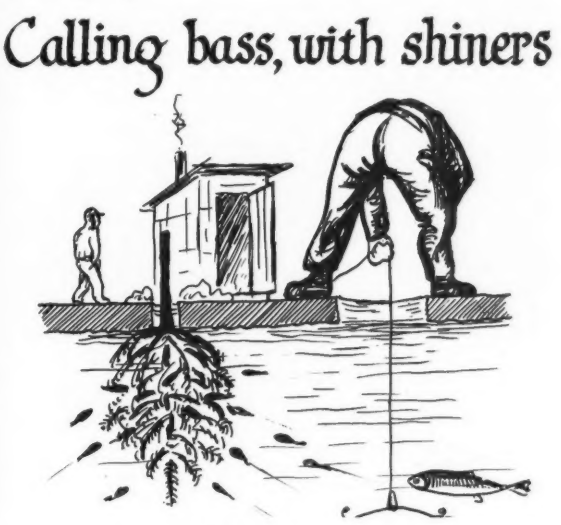

Fig. 3—Calling bass, with shiners.

Variations on these foregoing methods of course range in time from the Upper Paleolithic to the present day. But with the general disappearance of the older generation of guides and commercial fishermen these methods seem destined to disappear soon. Already most fish on "Glimmerglass" Lake are caught with chrome and nylon spinning and casting tackle by men in plastic and fibreglass boats. Oh, shades of Leatherstocking!

INFORMATION WANTED

FOR some time I have been searching for a smith's plane, used at least as late as the 1830's for planing of metal. The plane is needed for exhibition in the Hall of Tools in the new Museum of History and Technology, in connection with the development of the metal planing machine. I have never seen such a tool, and thus far no possible sources have been found. I wonder whether members of the Association might suggest a likely place to look for one.

Holtzapffel, vol. 2, pp. 483, 867, identifies the smiths' plane and gives instructions for its use. A small cut shows a plane similar to the carpenter's plane except that it has "a perpendicular cutter, ground to 70 or 80 degrees [that is, a clearance angle of 10 or 20 degrees, measured from the horizontal]; it [the cutter] is adjusted by a vertical screw . . . In the planes with vertical irons, the necessity for the narrow mouth ceases; and in the smith's plane some of the irons, or more properly cutters, are also grooved on the faces, by which their edges are virtually divided into several narrow pieces; this enables the instrument to be more easily employed in roughing-out work, by abstracting so much of the width of the iron, and by giving it a greater degree of penetration, but the finishing is done with smooth-edged cutters, and those not exceeding from five-eights to one inch wide." The plane described by Holtzapffel was perhaps 15 inches long overall.

In the Hoe printing press works, in the 1830's, the iron ribs of cylinder presses were first chipped and then planed out with hand planes. The following description of the operation is from Stephen D. Tucker's manuscript *History of the R. Hoe & Company* (c. 1890; typescript in Library of Congress). "The plane was about three feet long and fitted with face and side cutting tools. It was drawn forward by a man turning a windlass with the workman standing on the plane to give the required cutting pressure. The plane was carried back, the tool readjusted and another cut made. A great deal of care and skill was required at this work and it was surprising how accurately the ribs could be planed. A week was considered a fair time to plane a rib . . ."

Eugene S. Ferguson (member)
Curator
Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D. C.

Industrial Information From Our Colonial Ancestors

The following was taken from the 1785-87 Jones Family Papers in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress; microfilm in Colonial Williamsburg Research Department. The Jones Family were prominent merchants of Williamsburg and plantation owners of Virginia.

"Receipt for writing Lambblack."

"Take ½ lb. cleanest Bees Wax, 2-½ Oz. of Deer or Mutton Suet 1-½ Oz. Sugar Candy beat to a fine powder a Spoonful of Soft Soap as much Lamb-black as will give it a Colour about an Oz. puting it in as the rest of the Ingredients dissolve."

"Lumber and nails for house and corn crib."

"Memo That for a House 16 by 12 it takes 850 10 Penny Nails for Coverg. 1116 for Weather boardg. & 792 Boards Rafters 12 foot long. 7 foot Pitch."

"For an House 20 by 16 it takes 1050 10 penny Nails 1400. 8d Nails & 1000 Boards. Rafters 16 foot long 8 foot Pitch."

"For a Corn House 16 foot Square 500 10 Penny Nails 270 — 8d Nails & 314 Boards."

"In all 2106 Boards, 2400 — 10 Penny Nails & 2786 — 8 Penny Nails."

The Chronicle

Some Interesting Shoemakers Tools

Robert Mitchell

THE shoemaker's bench shown in figure 1 came from the Shaker Colony in New Lebanon, New York. It is fully equipped with tools of the craft and the one drawer pulled out contains shoe pegs. It is rather unusual for a bench of this type to have roller casters.

The cities had their permanent craftsmen whereas sometimes the farmer, especially those who lived rather far from any city and rarely made trips into it, had to depended upon the itinerant craftsman, who traveled from farm to farm offering his services. Figure 2 shows a rather unusual itinerant shoemaker's or perhaps cobbler's

Fig. 1—Shaker Colony shoemaker's bench.

bench in a closed position and ready to be carried. This bench was found in Vermont and originally belonged to James Boyd of Dummerston, Vermont, who had it handed down to him from his grandfather. Figure 3 shows the method of stowing the seat and figure 4 shows the bench opened and ready for use. Notice in figure 3 that the iron legs are resting on the seat of the bench and in figure 4 are in place. The bench has an interesting series of drawers sufficient to carry all the tools the worker might need on his travels. This bench was carried in the back of a wagon, as the cobbler went from house to house. If he was well treated and well fed; the story is

Fig. 3—Itinerant Shoemaker's bench—partly opened.

told that he was inclined to make small stitches, but if his reception was indifferent, he sewed with longer stitches! Carrying this bench was known as "swinging the cat."

As in many other crafts, the shoemaker needed work-

Fig. 2—Itinerant Shoemaker's bench—closed.

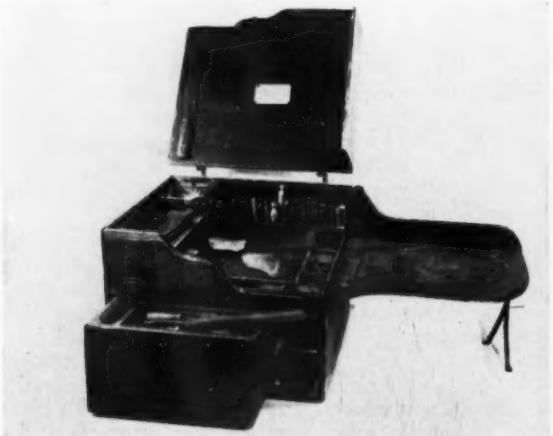

Fig. 4—Itinerant Shoemaker's bench—opened.

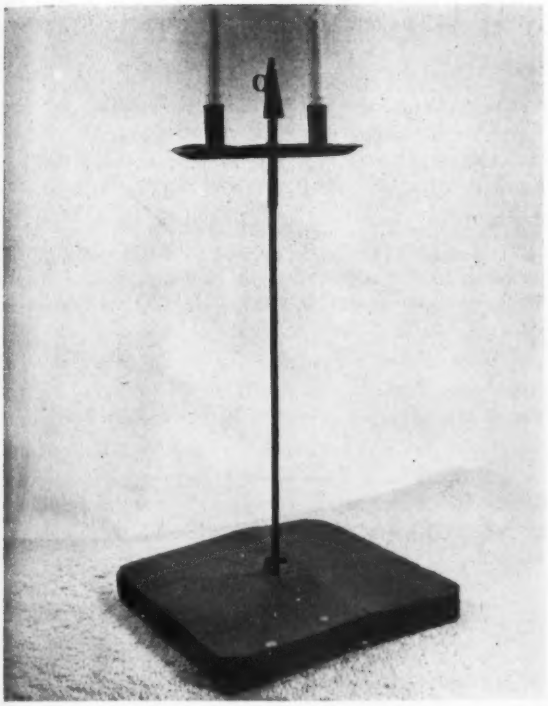

Fig. 5—Shoemaker's light.

ing light. Figure 5 shows an unusual shoemaker's light, originally owned by Tillingham Foster, for whom the station on the Harlem Division of the New York Central was named — "Tilly Foster." Figure 6 is an interesting shoemaker's light found in Zurich, Switzerland.

Fig. 6—Shoemaker's globes.

The shoemaker's tool in figure 7 often confuses people as to its use. It is a turn shoe moulding block and hammer and is used to mould soles and counters for turned shoes. The leather is dampened and then beat in the hollow of the block with the hammer to give it the necessary roundness.

In figure 8, the item on the left is a lasting, stitching jack, or can be called a boot or shoe jack. It is used to hold the last as the upper is lasted onto the sole and while the sole and upper are being sewn, nailed or pegged. It was held between the knees of the worker. The tool on the right is the usual type of iron last for clinching nails on the inside of the sole and heel.

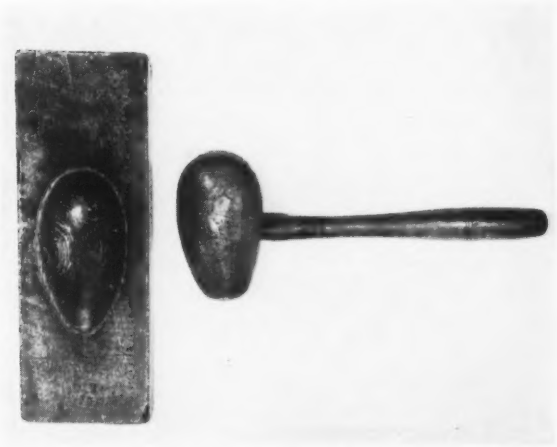

Fig. 7—Turn shoe moulding block and hammer.

Fig. 8—Lasting or stitching jack and iron last

The Chronicle

Tools That Perform Two Functions

BY LOU BRENDEL

SINCE I was six years old, I've always been a sucker for a pitchman on the corner demonstrating a combination can opener and glass cutter.

The other afternoon while carefully scrutinizing a box of cooper's tools that I had tracked down in West Townsend, Mass., I was suddenly surprised to notice that one of them was a home-made combination howel and croze. They were mounted back to back on a common fence as is apparent in figure 1. Frankly, I must confess that I was not sure that this was unusual, but a check with Minor Cooper and Frank Wildung indicated that

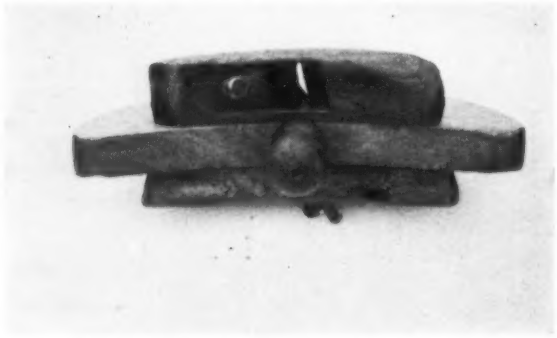

Fig. 1—Combination howel and croze.

neither had seen one before! News like that sent this old amateur country boy's spirits zooming. As you see in figure 1, when the tool is pushed in one direction it chamfers the barrel top above the barrelhead, and when it is run around the cerf in the opposite direction, it forms the groove for the head. (Blades are missing.)

This incident reminded me that I had had for several years, a moulding plane, figure 2, which was a combination—when pushed in one direction it ploughed a *groove* and in the other it made a *tongue*. This may not be an unusual article for it is a factory-made job and carries the maker's name: I. HAMMOND — NEW HAVEN. It is an excellent example of a practical "double-duty"

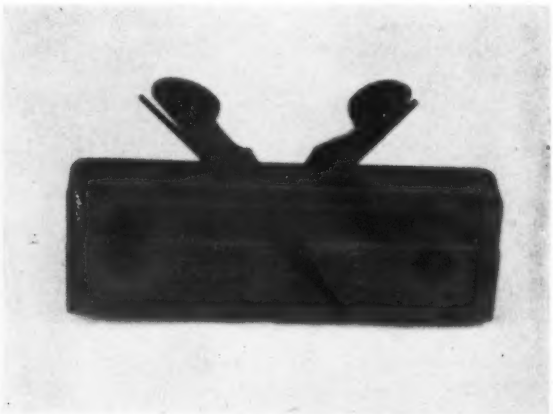

Fig. 2—Groove and tongue plane.

tool that eliminated the possibility of mislaying *one* of a set of mated planes commonly used for this task.

While going through the Shelburne tool exhibit at the June meeting with Ray Townsend, we talked of a short article for the CHRONICLE about "Double Duty" tools. In talking it over, we agreed that we should get a photo of the 2-bladed 38" Swedish jointer in the Shelburne collection. We couldn't find the museum photographer, so I left without the picture.

Imagine my delight when less than a month later in Hopkinton, New Hampshire, I stumbled onto a two bladed plane, figure 3, much like the one at Shelburne, except that this one is 63-inches long, with one iron used for a jack plane and the other as a jointer iron. It is similar in appearance (except longer) to the plane shown on page 20-21 of "Woodworking Tools" by Shelburne Museum's Frank Wildung—who incidently says mine

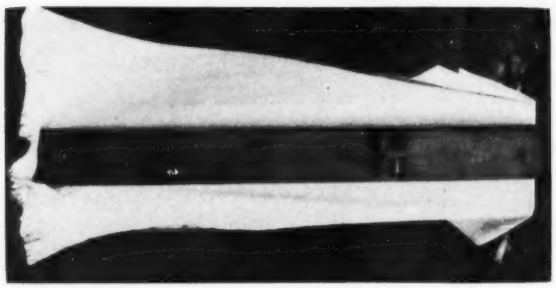

Fig. 3—Jack and jointer plane.

"was used in a cooper's shop much like a jointer, as the hole in the top indicates."

Perhaps it might be interesting if members send in photos and descriptions of other double-duty tools to the CHRONICLE editors.

Editors' note: Searching through the Colwell Cooperage Company's 1929 tool catalogue we ran across Mr. Brendell's double duty howel and croze! It is shown as a combination of their number 1601, all metal chamfer howel; and their number 1603, all metal croze, and stated: "Designed for the cooper who wants to complete two operations in one. It requires a little more effort to operate, but this is overcome by the fact that the work is completed in half the time. High-grade in every respect. The blades are held tightly in place by clamp bolts, which feature enables you to adjust them quickly and accurately. Cannot possibly work loose."

It would be interesting to know how old this combination tool is. The all metal croze-howel of the Colwell Catalogue is no doubt the outgrowth of an early type, perhaps such as Mr. Brendel's.

The Chronicle

Early American
Industries Association, Inc.

The purpose of the association is to encourage the study and better understanding of early American industry, in the home, in the shop, on the farm, and on the sea, and especially to discover, identify, classify, preserve and exhibit obsolete tools, implements, utensils, instruments, vehicles, appliances and mechanical devices used by American craftsmen, farmers, housewives, mariners, professional men, and other workers.

FRED C. SABIN, *President*
Little Falls, New York

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Richmond, Staten Island, New York

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Richmondville, N. Y.

M. W. THOMAS, JR. *Vice-President*
Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Michigan

LAWRENCE COOKE, *Vice-President*
436 Webster Street, Needham, Mass.

LOUIS H. BRENDEL, *Secretary*
45 Adams Road
Easton, Connecticut

MRS. FRANK D. PEIRCE, *Treasurer*
51 Paxton Street, Leicester, Mass.

MRS. ANNE P. JONES, *Asst. Treasurer*

JOHN P. FOX, *Membership Chairman*
Corning Glass Center, Corning, N. Y.

WILLIAM D. GEIGER — R. R. TOWNSEND
Editors of The Chronicle
P. O. Box 308
Williamsburg, Virginia

MINER J. COOPER
General Chairman Whatsit Committee
Main Street, Windsor, New York

Communications regarding the contents of *The Chronicle* and back issues should be addressed to the Editors; suggestions for members to John P. Fox; all other matters to the President. Address as here given.

DUES

The annual dues are payable on January 1st and are $6.00. The *Chronicle* is published quarterly and is sent to all members without additional charge. Printed on the press of The *Virginia Gazette*, founded 1736, *Williamsburg, Virginia.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MEMBERS of our Association, I am sure, are aware that the cost of living has been steadily on the increase. This also has been true of the cost of publication of the Chronicle and the operation of our organization. Many of our historical societies throughout the country have doubled their membership dues during the past several years. However, the Directors of the EAIA, after considerable consideration and study, felt that to double our dues was unnecessary, but that an increase was needed for operational expenses. At a meeting held in October 1960 at Cooperstown the Directors voted to raise our membership dues to six dollars a year, effective January 1, 1961. We feel this is fair and that by so doing we can continue to operate our organization and publish the *Chronicle* with the same standards as before.

—Fred C. Sabin

BOOK CLUB

IN the interest of offering a desirable service to members while at the same time deriving a small income to our treasury, the Board of Directors voted to investigate the desirability of a "Book Club" for EAIA members.

It was decided, for an experimental period, to offer to EAIA members, reference books that are currently in print by standard publishers, at a discount of 15 percent. Books will be shipped prepaid and all revenue beyond actual costs will go into the EAIA treasury. This offer cannot apply to books out of print, books privately published or published by University presses, etc.

If you wish to take advantage of this offer, mail a check for the published price less 15 percent, together with a complete description of the book including title, author and publisher to: Lawrence S. Cooke, 436 Webster Street, Needham 94, Mass. Allow 4 or 5 weeks for delivery especially on books that have to be re-ordered from the publisher.

We would also like your reaction to the idea of continuing this service indefinitely.

MRS. J. WATSON WEBB

It is with deep regret that we learned of the passing of Mrs. J. Watson Webb. Many of our members will recall the two delightful EAIA meetings at her Shelburne Museum and remember her hospitality and friendliness. Most vivid in our minds will be the meeting this past June, during which she opened to us her home and museum treasures of bygone days. Those of us who had the pleasure of meeting her know well of her interest in our Association.

AN INTERESTING RAISIN SEEDER

THE pictures of the items shown in figures 1 and 2 were sent to the Editors of the Chronicle for possible identification. The owner of the pictures, Mrs. Marion Dann, of Foster, Rhode Island, had shown the pictures to Mr. John Rippey of the Providence Journal Newspaper staff who in turn showed them to EAIA member Mr. Donald Shepard of Old Slater Mill, Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He in turn sent them on to us. Desiring more information we wrote Mrs. Dann who informed us that the only thing she could find on the "sewing machine", as we had dubbed it, was "Pat'd. Nov. 28, 1865" and "Pat'd. May 2, 1871."

Figure 1.

The size of the "sewing machine" can be seen in proportion to the hands. By turning the wheel a series of needles come down into an opening in a ledge, as can be seen in figure two. Having never seen anything like this before we decided to take the pictures and letters to the Cooperstown meeting and place them on the Whatsit's table. During the evening Whatsit's session we were both amazed and pleased to see a similar machine show up. Mr. Peter J. Woloson, of Horsehead, New York, had brought an identical machine for the same purpose of identification. Both our "whatsit sewing machines" turned out to be *raisin seeders!* Underneath the bottom shelf is a sort of scraper that runs across the bottom of the opening and scrapes off the seeds as they are pushed through the raisins by needles. We wrote Mr. Woloson for information and

Figure 2.

a picture of this scraper and he sent us the picture shown in figure 3.

This was Mr. Woloson's first EAIA meeting and he wrote that he was surprised to find our pictures of his identical machine at the meeting! His younger son, who

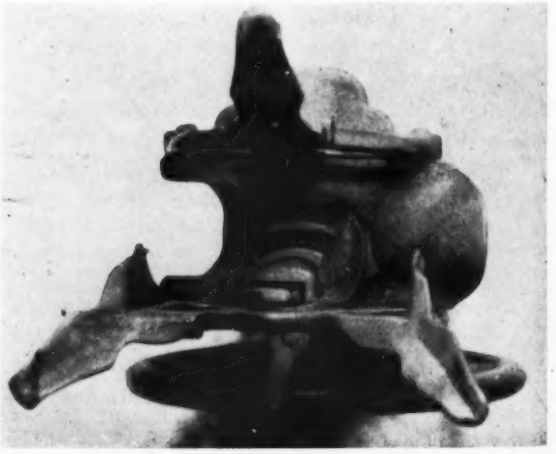

Fig. 3—Bottom of raisin seeder, showing scraper.

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Early American Industries
NEW PUBLICATIONS

Over The Counter and On The Shelf,

BY LAURENCE A. JOHNSON

Edited by Marcia Ray. Charles E. Tuttle Publishing Company. 1961. (Available March 1, 1961).

During the thirty years Laurence Johnson has been collecting country store items, he's been just as busily engaged in learning the when, where and why of them. Now he's gathered his prodigious information and presented it in full force, with over 100 illustrations of actual items, mostly from his own collections, in *Over the Counter and On The Shelf.*

As the title suggests this is a two-part book. The first section is concerned with merchandising—from the trading post era through horse and buggy days to the supermarket—from English pounds and pence of Colonial days through the bustles-for-beeswax bartering of the 19th century. He tells how stores were run and of the men who ran them, of peddlers, and drummers, and bedeviling bookkeeping systems.

The second portion of the book deals exclusively with products and their development. Soaps, for instance, are taken from the days of home made soft soap—the process is described—through bulk soaps made by early soap companies to bar soap in wrappers. When customers looked askance at this latter innovation, Benjamin T. Babbitt dreamed up premiums for soap wrappers—and opened a whole new field for advertising promotions. All the staples are considered—corn, crackers, cheese, tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate, and the like, along with the progression of manufactured goods made available over the counter in post Civil-War days. In for their share of research are the patent medicines, celluloid collars, mouse traps, dress patterns, penny candies, and all the gala extras that made the crossroads store the livelist place in the country of a Saturday night. EAIA members will find particular interest in the industries discussed and the new tools they necessitated for their operation.

This is not a "profound work" and no effort has been made to make it so. Rather it's a readable, factual, and accurate story of general merchandising in America. For antiquarians and other students of our country's development, it will answer many questions pertaining to the social, commercial, and industrial life of America's last three hundred years.

Mr. Johnson, as a member of the EAIA, has frequently contributed to *The Chronicle,* and readers are well aware of the variety of his interests and the painstaking care he gives his research. Dr. Fred C. Sabin, present president of the Association, himself a connoisseur on country store material, has contributed the introduction to this informative and entertaining book. Mrs. Ray, who edited the book, is managing editor of the *Spinning Wheel,* antiques magazine.

—Marcia Ray

A Guide to America Trade Catalogs 1744-1900.

BY LAWRENCE B. ROMAINE

A Guide to American TRADE CATALOGS 1744-1900, by Lawrence B. Romaine, R. R. Bowker Company, New York, 1960. (published November 25, 1960)

EAIA member Larry Romaine's "Guide" is a long needed source for researchers on manufacturer's trade catalogs, many never before recorded. He has examined and classified thousands of catalogs housed in museums, libraries, historical societies, etc., from Maine to Texas and from Florida to Washington. This, we feel, will provide authoritative material for both the historian and collector of our country's early American industries. No longer will these "by gones" of our forefathers' achievements toward our industrial, economical and social growth be hidden and collect the dust of time! Now, through the use of Mr. Romane's Guide, they may be easily found and their contents made to speak for us of their past efforts to make our lives more comfortable and healthy. This is indeed a needed publication!

To make the researcher's task still more easy, Mr. Romaine has listed these catalogues under appropriate subject heading with a descriptive data on each catalog, and an index from which one will be able to trace the history of everything from an adze to a zither.

To give an idea of the contents we list a few of the chapter headings: Agricultural Implements; Bicycles; Carriages & Wagons; China & Pottery; Clock & Watches; Clothing & Fashions; Drugs & Pharmaceuticals; Firearms; Furniture; Hardware; Ironwork Ornamental; Lighting; Plumber's Supplies; Sewing Machines; Stoves; Toys; etc. This is by no means the complete list as the researcher will be both pleased and delighted to learn of the wide range that the Guide covers.

Knowing the location of these catalogues should be a great help to our organization in our identification of our whatsits.

Forgotten Mills of Early New Jersey.

By Harry B. Weiss and Grace M. Weiss, The New Jersey Agricultural Society, Trenton, New Jersey, 1960.

This is another informative publication compiled by Harry B. Weiss and Grace M. Weiss of the early miscellaneous mills of New Jersey, such as oil, plaster, bark, indigo, fanning, tilt, rolling and slitting mills, and is the seventh of the series devoted to rural industries that have passed out of existence and have been forgotten by many people. The present monograph also includes an account of early nail and wood-screw manufacturing. As in the case of their previous studies, the early detailed methods of operation have been stressed in order to save them from oblivion and because of their interest in comparison with modern methods.

The study is well illustrated with drawings and pictures of eighteenth and nineteenth century mills and tools.

An Interesting Raisin Seeder

(Continued from page 50)

is studying engineering at Cornell, searched through Cornell's science libraries and found the following information which refers to this same raisin-seeder. He writes as follows: "This device was given provisional protection under the Great Britain Patent system under the name William James Schlesinger, Middlesex, England, Pat. Feb. 8, 1873, No. 464, and called "An improvement in raisin seeding or raisin stoning." It was entered as a "communique from abroad" attributed to one C. Dixon of the city and state of New York."

"Dixon is apparently the inventor but I was unable to find a U. S. Patent on it. However, I do not have access to patent indices prior to 1872 and it is quite likely that it was patented here before that time. (This would be true by the indication of the patent date on Mrs. Dann's of Nov. 28, 1865 and May 2, 1871). The British patent describes the device in detail including the fabrication—'a soft solder being used to place both the ejector needles and that part of the compression clamp through which the needles pass.' no drawings were included."

Mr. Woloson informed us that he had obtained the machine from a lady on Route 20 near the Village of Morrisville, New York. She had no idea what it was or where she had acquired it. However, the Finger Lakes region of New York is grape country, and it may be that it was imported by someone who had to do with raising grapes.

(Editors' note: We feel that such occurences as the above makes our meetings interesting and informative. Where else but at an EAIA meeting would a grape seeder from Foster, Rhode Island show up with one from Horsehead, New York!)

EAIA SPRING MEETING

June 23, 24, and 25, 1961

THE 1961 Spring Meeting of the Early American Industries Association will be held at the Staten Island Historical Society, Richmondtown, Staten Island, New York, on June 23, 24, and 25, 1961.

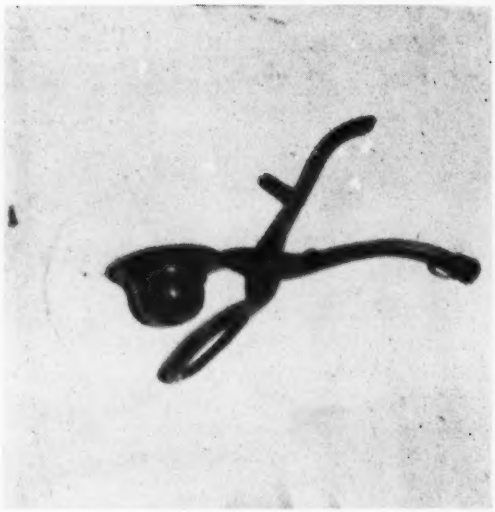
We feel this meeting will be of unusual interest to our members. Plans are being made for probably two sessions of a panel of our members to answer questions concerning various 19th century crafts and the tools used. Tools of the craft will be drawn from the Museum and placed on display where the panel members may answer any questions concerning the operation of the craft and the function of the tools.

Besides our regular whatsit session, members will have the opportunity to view various unidentified tools of the museum and will be asked to list their opinions concerning the use and name of the tools. The George Simmons Collection is displayed at the Staten Island Historical Society.

At the annual banquet the guest speaker will be Mr. Paul Downing, well-known consultant on early coaches and carriages. Mr. Downing will speak on the tools of the coach maker and their use.

More detailed information concerning the meeting will be forthcoming in the March, 1961, issue of the Chronicle.

WHATSIT



The above pictured device was sent to us for identification by the Detroit Historical Museum, Detroit, Michigan. We were informed that the marks on the item are hard to decipher but appear to be: COLDMA(?)S (?), Patent, Feb. 19?? PITTSE??IDMASS. It is made of iron painted black, and measures about 7" long. The two sections are hinged, scissor-fashion so that the circle comes down over the knob, but does not fit tightly against it.

We sent this information and picture to Mr. Elwood J. Way, EAIA Patent Chairman, in Washington, D. C. He searched through the United States, Great Britain, Canada, and Australia patents but failed to find anything like it. He wrote us that the device appears to be somewhat similar to the many lemon squeezers of the late 19th or 20th centuries. "I have seen them with a ceramic cup which was removeable, perhaps such a cup is missing from this specimen, accounting for its not fitting tightly together."

We took the picture and letters to the Whatsit Session at Cooperstown but failed to obtain any information concerning it. Can anyone tell us what it is?

NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN

One of our members, we won't mention his name, before the meeting at Cooperstown visited our President's "Sabin's Three Acres" museum. Browsing through the tool shed he "discovered" some wonderful "washing machines" the like of which he had never seen before! What a discovery! One was turned by dog power! The Editors' of the Chronicle would love to see these in print! Pleased with his discovery, he cornered Mrs. Sabin and excitedly told her his plan. Then came the downfall! His "washing machines" turned out to be butter churns! Which proves: We are *never* to old to learn!